



LP News

The Party of Principle™

December 2009

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Don't Just Complain—Run for Congress

by Arthur DiBianca

Libertarian Party Executive Director Wes Benedict shared some words of wisdom in his speech “Why Libertarians make a difference” to the Libertarian Party of Michigan at their LibertyFest 2009 dinner banquet on November 14.

Lots of voters are unhappy with the Democrats’ socialized health care, stimulus handouts and deficit spending. However, it’s still very fresh in voters’ minds how bad the Republicans were: TARP bailouts, two foreign wars, the \$400 billion (later \$1.2 trillion) Medicare drug expansion, and (of course) deficit spending. Republicans and Democrats ignore the Constitution and the voters as they continue to grow government.

That’s why Wes is telling Libertarians around the country, “Don’t just



complain—run for Congress!” The Libertarian Party has a long history of encouraging people to run for office whether they have a good chance of winning or not.

The biggest advantage of being

a political party is that we can do something no other organization can do: in most states, we can nominate candidates and put

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CHAIRMAN'S TRAVELOGUE

Don't Waste Your Vote: Vote Democratic

by William Redpath



I can't know what each of you thought when you read the headline above, but probably the most charitable thought was "Poor Bill Redpath. He almost

made it to the end of his second term as Chair before he cracked up."

Please be assured that I don't really mean it. But, until I get a law passed making it illegal to skip past the Chairman's column when reading *LP News*, kindly forgive my grabbing your attention by stooping to headlines that would make the editors of the late Weekly World News proud.

But, there is a point to it.

We've all heard it many times. "I can't (sign your petition/vote for you/all of the above), because you'll take votes from Republicans and then The Really Bad People will win."

In 2008, when I was the Libertarian candidate for US Senate in Virginia, we had to circulate separate petitions for the Libertarian presidential ticket and me. Many people gladly signed my petition (getting my charm tank topped off beforehand helped, I guess), but when it came to signing for the LP presidential ticket, "Noooooooooooo! Barr

will screw things up for John McCain!"

Let's see how that philosophy has worked out for those people.

I just read the recently published *Re-carving Rushmore*, written by Ivan Eland of the small-l libertarian Independent Institute, in which he ranks forty presidents (too early in Obama's presidency/Cleveland served twice/Garfield and William Henry Harrison both served less than a year) on a "PP&L (Peace, Prosperity & Liberty) scale."

What appeared to chafe Dr. Eland was the tendency of historians to judge presidents as "great," or not so, based on the times in which they served, not the actual decisions made by them when they were President. Dr. Eland's goal is to judge presidents on the extent to which their actual policy decisions contributed to Peace, Prosperity & Liberty for the United States.

As a libertarian, Dr. Eland does not play favorites. Thomas Jefferson is rated a woeful 26th by Eland, who calls TJ "A Hypocrite on Limited Government." I have not asked Dr. Eland if he thinks we should save our rotten tomatoes for whomever next sings that "Thomas Jefferson" song at an LP convention (non-old-timers may not remember this).

Surprisingly, in Dr. Eland's judgment, the best president in American history was John Tyler (vetoed the revival of the national bank/ended the worst Indian war in US history/responded with restraint to Dorr's Rebellion in Rhode Island/ditto with a border dispute between Maine and New Bruns-

wick/opposed big government in fact and not just rhetoric), while the second best was Grover Cleveland, a fat guy who liked slim government. The worst president (#40) in his view was Woodrow Wilson (got the U.S. into World War I/post-war policies set the table for World War II/plenty more, but ain't that enough?).

But, what really struck me, as I reviewed Dr. Eland's presidential rankings, was how low recent Republican presidents were on his PP&L scale. I know some people will dispute this, but Eland ranks Ronald Reagan as #34 (landing him in Eland's "Bad President" category), and he has sensible reasons. Eland claims that the Iran/Contra scandal was worse than Watergate, Reagan did not reduce big government, started "surreptitiously" raising taxes soon after his 1981 tax cuts were enacted, and helped keep Social Security limping along in 1983 (with tax increases, of course) when he could have worked to privatize it. Dr. Eland also thinks Reagan's role in ending the Cold War was overblown, and that the Soviet Union failed largely on its own. Other low recent Republican president rankings (W. at #36, H. W. at #33 and Nixon at #30) are no surprise.

What is somewhat surprising is that Dr. Eland ranks Jimmy Carter as "The Best Modern President" at #8 (restrained foreign policy/evenhanded Middle East policy/deregulated industries/appointed Paul Volcker to the Fed, who then slew inflation). Eland even ranked Bill Clinton as the 11th best president on his PP&L scale, so he thinks that over the last forty years, Democratic presidents have actually been more libertarian than Republican presidents.

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LP News

The Purposes of the Libertarian Party:

The Party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, and supporting Party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

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LETTERS To The Editor

Support S.1686

As both a veteran and fellow Libertarian, I wanted to write to you about S. 1686, The Judiciously Using Surveillance Tools In Counterterrorism Efforts (JUSTICE) Act of 2009. This piece of legislation was introduced by Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI). This bill goes a long way in restoring and protecting our constitutional rights and civil liberties. Passing a bill like this one will help to restrict the Patriot Act.

Aaron Yeargan
Hampstead, NC

Use of Swastika in Protest "Bad Form"

The photo in the September 2009 issue of *LP News* [see "San Jose Libertarians Protest Senator Barbara Boxer"] is a perfect example of what Libertarians should not do. The photo shows Libertarian National Committee member Mark Hinkle holding a sign at a protest rally in California that reads, "Just say no to: Barbara Boxer, Big Government, Socialized Medicine." The sign used a swastika in place of the 'x' in Boxer's name.

While Libertarians should vigorously oppose Boxer's anti-liberty policies, there's no evidence that she wants to exterminate Jews. Using a Nazi symbol is far more likely to inflame and turn off far more people, including people who are otherwise sympathetic to our cause of individual liberty, than it will attract to our party. It may even attract neo-Nazis to our party, which is not the type of person I hope most Libertarians want to attract.

Please Libertarians, avoid overuse of Nazi and Hitler comparisons because it robs the valid comparisons of their impact, and it's considered bad form in public debate.

Chuck Wright
Westminster, CO

Hinkle's Response to Mr. Wright

Thanks for sharing your thoughts. As you may be aware, you're not the only Libertarian who has shared their concern/displeasure over the picture that ap-

peared in *LP News*.

It's been an eye-opener for me to see how people, both inside and outside of the Party, have reacted to the use of the Swastika on the poster.

My intent was to link Barbara Boxer's socialist views with the Nazis, which I hope everyone knows, were also socialists. In deference to my Libertarian allies, I've destroyed the poster and it will not be used again.

I have noticed that the only negative comments I've received have been from Libertarians. The poster was displayed by me at two different TEA Party events and not a single non-libertarian protester objected. The combined attendance at those two events was approximately 800-1,000 people. Many people, in fact, complimented me on the poster and a dozen or so took pictures.

Also I was interviewed by two different local TV stations (ABC & NBC) and neither TV crew chose to record me with the sign. I note this because some Libertarians think the media is out to get us. I'm guessing that neither crew wanted to "get us" or neither crew thought the sign controversial.

So, rest assured, the sign won't be seen again. And, thanks for caring about our Party.

Mark Hinkle
Region 2 Representative
Libertarian National Committee

A Perfect Fit for All Americans

Yes, it was a Conservative versus a Democrat in New York 23 District. Upon reading up on that, I saw a hard-rightwing Conservative that left the GOP and was supported by hard-rightwing GOP folks. So, the moderate GOP candidate quit.

As I think more of this, I could see the GOP moving even FURTHER towards the hard right, which will "thrill" the Social Conservatives and the "Machine." Okay, but where do people go that are moderate GOP members and Fiscal Conservatives that are NOT hardcore?

Interesting times.

Does a hard swing to the right make it better for the LP? It would hurt the Constitution Party, for sure. I sense a lot of people

won't tolerate or stomach the "holier-than-thou" crowd that wants to mandate personal behavior standards. So, do they sit it out, move to the D's, or move to the LP?

The GOP's move to the center didn't work either because Republicans helped spend the USA into bankruptcy. They are in "desperate" mode now. Ronald Reagan wouldn't even recognize his beloved GOP.

Articles are out there in the news that state the USA needs a "moderate" party. Heck, we already have one in many ways and it is the LP. We get accused of being radical. How radical is it to bankrupt the country with over 10 trillion in debt, get into bogus wars, make big corporations rich via the war and bailouts, etc. That seems to be radical, if not criminal.

Bottom line, don't be fooled by the so-called "conservatives" that would stomp many of you OUT of existence for reading this letter. They would be the first to trample 1st Amendment, 4th Amendment, and gosh knows how many other rights.

Simple, we need a party that believes the country needs to live within it means; reduce its intrusion into people's wallets, businesses, and personal choices; and, quit trying to police the world with thousands of troops scattered all over while we are being pushed to the limits on our own Southern border.

Sounds like the Libertarian Party could be and indeed is the answer. We are indeed the "big tent" party of the 21st century. We represent the "average Joe," moderates, fiscally conscious citizens, small business owners, and independent people that just want to be left alone.

Kevin J. Knedler
Chairman, LP of Ohio
Delaware, OH

Thanks to All Our 2009 Candidates

I would like to thank all our 2009 Libertarian Party candidates who ran for office. It's tough being a Libertarian in a political system rigged by the Big Two political parties; however, I always can look to our local elected officials around the nation for inspiration. Those who run for office put their money where their mouth is (quite literally). But, because of their hard work, they help spread the message of liberty.

Paul Reed
Clarksville, TN

The Parliamentarian

With LP Parliamentarian M Carling

Suspend the Rules

A board, convention, or membership meeting (but not a committee) may suspend some types of rules. Note that a board named, for example, Executive Committee, State Committee, or County Committee is a board, not a committee, in the parliamentary sense, despite a name that might suggest otherwise.

The motion to suspend the rules should not specify the rule or rules to be suspended. Rather, the motion should specify the action to be taken that would ordinarily be prohibited by the rules. For example, one would not move to suspend the rule prohibiting non-members from engaging in debate. One would instead move, for example, "to suspend the rules to allow Jane Smith to speak in debate on the pending motion to" Nothing other than the stated purpose may be done while the rules are suspended.

Rules of order, such as the procedural rules contained in a parliamentary authority such as Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised or special rules of order adopted by the party to supersede the parliamentary authority may be suspended by a two-thirds vote. Standing rules, which govern the business of the party, rather than how meetings are conducted, may be suspended by a majority vote. Bylaws (and the Constitution, if there is one) can never be suspended -- not even by a unanimous vote. Also, fundamental principles of parliamentary law contained in the parliamentary authority, such as "one person, one vote," or the requirement that one must be present to vote, can never be suspended.

The motion to suspend the rules must be seconded, is not debatable, and cannot be amended. It is in order when no other business is pending or when connected to the pending business. If a motion to suspend the rules is defeated, then another motion to suspend the rules for the same purpose can be made only after an intervening adjournment.

M Carling is the appointed parliamentarian of the LP, a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians and the American Institute of Parliamentarians, and is credentialed as a Professional Registered Parliamentarian. Contact Carling with your questions at editor@lp.org.

LIBERTARIAN THINKER

Path to Economic Ruin

Forget "Death Panels" for Obamacare; the Real Tragedy Is Obama Killing Small Business

by Wayne Allyn Root

The national unemployment rate hit 10.2 percent today. What a surprise! Actually it may have come as a great surprise to "the Messiah" aka President Barack Obama, but it came as no surprise to anyone who understands economics. My old college classmate Obama is not among that group.

Small business creates upwards of 75 percent to 80 percent of all new jobs. If small business is failing, there are no new jobs. Without a robust small business community, there can be no economic recovery. All the stimulus money in the world going to Obama's big business campaign contributors—unions, government employees, banks, Wall Street—will not end the recession. All the government jobs "saved" and created will do nothing, but take money and jobs AWAY from the private sector. All the billions of dollars lavished on unions and union workers will push the country back into recession. All the government union workers honored with raises by Obama will increase the national debt and damage the economic recovery. Only a recovery led by small business can save us. We are staring at an economic Armageddon—not just for us, but for our children and grandchildren.

We have been lied to—by Obama, by Pelosi, by Treasury Secretary Geithner, by Fed Chief Bernanke. There is no recovery. The recession isn't over. To the contrary, we are in the start of a long-term depression caused by big government, big spending, onerous taxes and government regulations placed on business, too much deficit and debt.

Obama isn't the solution. He is the problem. He knows nothing about business—small, or large. He has never owned a business, run a business, funded a business, or created a job in his life. His entire knowledge of economics comes from books. And they are the wrong books—Karl Marx never created a job either.

I didn't need today's bad news on unemployment to know we weren't coming out of the recession. I only needed to open my eyes and see the real tragedy right in front of me on Main Street:

- The hair salon where I've had my hair cut for eight years—a bustling, loud, prosperous small business in Las Vegas (before Obama)—went out of business last month. Closed with no notice—the doors padlocked by sheriffs.

- The healthy fast food restaurant where I ate organic hamburgers, organic milkshakes, and baked fries for years—also a bustling, prosperous business (before Obama)—went out of business last month. Not just one small business, but rather the entire chain of five restaurants in Nevada and Florida gone.

- My biggest competitor in the sports handicapping industry, a legend in our industry, after 30 years in business, closed up shop two weeks ago. Thirty years of prosperity, hundreds of millions in revenues pumped into the economy, and 100 good-paying jobs down the drain. All it took was nine months of Obama running the economy.

- U.S. Air—the 2nd largest airline carrier into Las Vegas—announced just last week that they are cutting HALF their

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Mary Ruwart: How Liberty Makes Health Care Virtually Universal

by Mary Ruwart

Everyone knows that health care costs are soaring every year, making medical bills and insurance unaffordable for many. No relief is in sight with the health care bills being considered in Congress, which are estimated to cost us at least \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. Given government's abysmal record in estimating costs, we should expect to pay much more.

Judging from what has happened in other nations with "universal health care," many of us, seniors especially, will die waiting for treatment. Health care is so expensive that there is only so much to go around; it has to be rationed.

But why is health care so expensive? Why does it cost so much more every year?

The health care industry is one of the most highly regulated in the country. These regulations drive up costs enormously. About 80 percent of the costs of new drugs, for example, are due to regulations that are intended to make them safer. In practice, however, these regulations cause millions of premature deaths by adding 10 years to the drug development time of life-saving drugs and favoring new, expensive drugs over nutrients and older pharmaceuticals with good safety records.

Very few nutritional supplements are put through the FDA testing process. Consequently, manufacturers are banned from advertising their products to doctors. Lovaza, a prescription fish oil supplement, is one of the few exceptions. Even with their insurance company paying most of the cost, patients pay almost as much for Lovaza through their co-pay as they would for virtually identical over-the-counter pharmaceutical grade fish oil at the same drug store!

In addition to driving up the costs of drugs, regulations have created a shortage of health care professionals by limiting the number trained each year. When the number of practitioners go down, prices go up. Physicians are more likely to overlook potential treatment options and make major medical mistakes when they put in the long hours generally required of them because of regulation-driven doctor shortages.

Even when doctors do all that is medically possible for their patients, juries often find them

liable in order to give patients with poor medical outcomes access to the "deep pockets" of their physicians' malpractice insurance. Premiums have gone up so much that doctors are leaving some specialties, notably obstetrics and neurosurgery.

Those who remain estimate that 10 percent of health care spending goes to order tests that are done solely as "defensive" measures.

These distortions of the market drive up health care costs. Insurance goes up too. However, some states double these already high insurance costs by "mandating" that every policy cover treatments that many people consider "optional" such as massage therapists, in-vitro fertilization, and hair transplants.

Most insured individuals never realize what their true medical costs are. They have little incentive to shop for the physician or pharmacist providing the best value. What they pay is fixed, especially if they have low-deductible insurance policies through their employer. When workers lose their job, they often lose medical coverage because they cannot afford the high COBRA payments their former employer offers. They discover that their "free" health care is actually quite costly and that if they pay for it themselves, they can't deduct the cost to the extent that their employer can.

Workers with Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) fare better than their coworkers when they leave a job. Workers or their employers make tax-deductible contributions to employee HSAs, which grow tax-free. Individuals pay their insurance deductibles from their HSAs and take the account with them when they leave their employer.

HSAs are available to those who have high deductible insurance. Since individuals can eventually use this money for other expenses, they have an incentive to shop for cost-efficient high quality service. Since high deductible policies are less expensive, employers pay less for insurance and employees benefit from the tax benefits and portability.

Clearly, lowering health care spending by doing away with wasteful practices should be at the top of our health care reform list. Such reforms include:

1. Allowing individuals, as well as busi-

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Elected Libertarian Leads Repeal of Anti-Homosexual Law in Missouri

by Doug Burlison

On September 8, at my urging, our City Council (of which I am a member) repealed a local ordinance that prohibited homosexuals from "soliciting" each other. In other words, it was O.K. to put the "heterosexual moves" on a member of the opposite sex, but if you're gay, any talk about sex could have invited punitive measures until now.

The measure was added to some other items that were repealed as a package; it was basically a legal "housekeeping" ordinance. It was a unanimous vote by all councilmembers in attendance.

Afterwards, it seemed to be a rather subdued reaction. This issue was not of the highest profile, whereas we are intently working on solving the underfunded status of our Police and Fire Pension System. Building up to the vote, however, we received quite a few e-mail messages, both pro and con. The quantity of the "pro" messages exceeded both the quantity, and the civility, levels of the "con" messages, which included threats of lawsuits and future electoral failure.

Speaking for myself only, I can tell you when someone issues a threat to me, I will not respond in the way that they desire. I did receive a few congratulatory e-mails and expressions of gratitude, which helps to defray the numerous complaints that you hear in a job like this (which is an

unpaid, volunteer position, by the way).

This would not have been addressed if I had not initially pushed the issue. My awareness of this ordinance came about at a local Pridefest earlier this year, when I accompanied local Libertarians who manned a booth at the event.

Across the street, several neo-nazis and white supremacists were protesting the event, with some signage that recommended death and hell for gays. At one point, a local pastor, Dr. Roger Ray, took the stage and made a speech which highlighted and condemned the homosexual solicitation ordinance that we still had in our city code. To hear a man of the cloth reading a portion of our city law that targeted a specific population, and that the exact language of the law was very pornographic in tone, coupled with the sounds of fascist protests in the background; I knew what needed to be done.

Dr. Ray even handed me his copy of the ordinance so that I could reference it. This was a great opportunity for me, in that a large part of my motivation for getting into politics was, and is, to fight against oppression wherever it raises its ugly head. My Libertarian background also equipped me for this particular fight, as well. In the end, I also had the support of my colleagues on the council, as was evidenced by the final vote.

Sometimes, things do work out all right.

Libertarian Vies for Massachusetts U.S. Senate Spot

by LPHQ Staff

Joe Kennedy, a member of the Libertarian Party, is running to fill the unexpired Senate term of the deceased Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy. The special election will be held on January 19, 2010.

David Blau, chair of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, says, "While [Mr. Kennedy] will appear on the ballot as an Independent due to a provision of state law, I have spoken with him at length and believe him to be an excellent libertarian candidate."

You can visit Kennedy's campaign Web site at <http://joekennedyforsenate.com/>.

In a November 2 email to the Libertarian Party, Mr. Kennedy reported, "In the past weeks I have attended a num-

ber of rallies and grown my support base. During that process I have been converting a number of individuals in the Massachusetts area to the Libertarian way of thinking through television and radio appearances, rallies, email and mostly social media networks and website memberships."

"I have raised a small amount of money for myself and encouraged numerous people to join and give to National," Kennedy continued. "I am 2/3 done with my signature campaign and I am committed to both getting on the ballot and expanding the base of our party."

On his Web site, Mr. Kennedy claims no relation to the family or relatives of President John F. Kennedy. He was born in Boston, has spent most of his life in Massachusetts, and works in the technology field.

Annual LibertyFest Held by Michigan LP



Libertarian Party of Michigan annual LibertyFest award winners Rose Bogaert, Mark Byrne, and Larry Johnson.

by Greg Stempfle

The Libertarian Party of Michigan held their annual LibertyFest banquet on November 14 at the Eagle Crest Marriot in Ypsilanti.

For the past 17 years Libertarians have gotten together the week or two after Election Night to reflect on the previous year and to present the "Defender of Liberty Awards" to members of the community and party who have made a significant contribution to the cause of freedom.

The Spokesperson of Liberty is awarded to a member of the community whose patriotism and conviction have inspired others. This year, the award went to Rose Bogaert, the quintessential Michigan anti-tax activist. Rose has been a member of the Wayne County Taxpayers Association for 28 years and Chair for 27. Rose had also served on her local school board, been involved in passing term limits, litigation in the first Headlee Amendment case, and Rose was also instrumental in the recall the Speaker of the Michigan House, Andy Dillon. While this recall did not ultimately succeed, court victories along the way now make it easier to recall elected officials.

The Promoter of Liberty is awarded to a party member whose efforts have done the most to promote the LP and libertarian principles. The winner this year is Mark Byrne. Mark is Chair of the St. Clair County LP, and a former member of the Port Huron City Council, where local media has dubbed him a "champion of frugality." Mark has generated a ton of positive local media, which usually

describes him as a libertarian, for making the community friendlier for families and small businesses. Unfortunately, Mark barely lost his re-election campaign this November, despite the endorsement of the local paper.

The Producer of Liberty award goes to an LP member whose dedicated behind the scenes work for the party helps keep the organization running. Larry Johnson has worked behind the scenes for the Washtenaw County LP for the past 10 years, serving at various positions including Chair, Secretary, delegate to national conventions, and several LPM convention committees. Larry first joined the LP at a booth at the Ann Arbor Fair, an event Larry has helped to organize every year since. Larry is also one of our elected partisan officials. It's fitting that Larry gets this award in Ypsilanti Township, the same community where he serves on the Parks Committee.

Following the awards ceremony, guests were treated to a speech by David Littmann, senior economist with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and former vice president of Comerica Bank. He discussed the economic problems facing Michigan and practical solutions our candidates could promote during their 2010 campaigns.

The final speaker of the night was Wes Benedict, executive director of the Libertarian National Committee who discussed the LP strategy for the 2010 elections.

Video of the night's speeches will be made available on the LPM's YouTube channel.

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Libertarian News Briefs:

Libertarian Party Pleased by
New Federal Marijuana Policy

The Libertarian Party recently expressed its approval of the Obama administration’s new, more laissez-faire policy toward medical marijuana. The policy appears to end the practice of federal prosecution of medical marijuana patients and providers in states where medical marijuana is legal.

Wes Benedict, LP executive director, commented, “This is a small step in the right direction. The federal government currently wastes tremendous resources in the War on Drugs, creating a huge, vicious, violent black market. This new policy will reduce the damage and destruction, and it will hopefully end some of the unjust prosecution of peaceful medical marijuana providers and patients.”

The LP has long called for the repeal of laws that criminalize the medicinal or recreational use of drugs.

Benedict added, “We urge the Obama administration not to stop with this small step, but to take further steps to end the destructive, unjust, unconstitutional War on Drugs.”

Libertarian City-Councilman
Offers to Match First \$200

Indianapolis City-Council member at-Large and fellow Libertarian Ed Coleman has offered to match the first \$200 in value collected during the Libertarian Party of Marion County’s annual charity drives.

The Libertarian Party of Marion County is now collecting nonperishable food for its annual November food drive and new or gently used clothing for its annual December clothing drive. Additionally, the Libertarian Party of Marion County will also accept monetary donations this year to give to its beneficiary.

This year’s beneficiary is Second Helpings. Second Helpings not only distributes food and clothing, it also provides job training opportunities. Its Web site is www.secondhelpings.org/.

For monetary donations, you can donate through the LPMC PayPal account at www.indylp.org/donate. Specify “Food and Clothing Drive” when using PayPal to ensure that your donation is allocated to Second Helpings.

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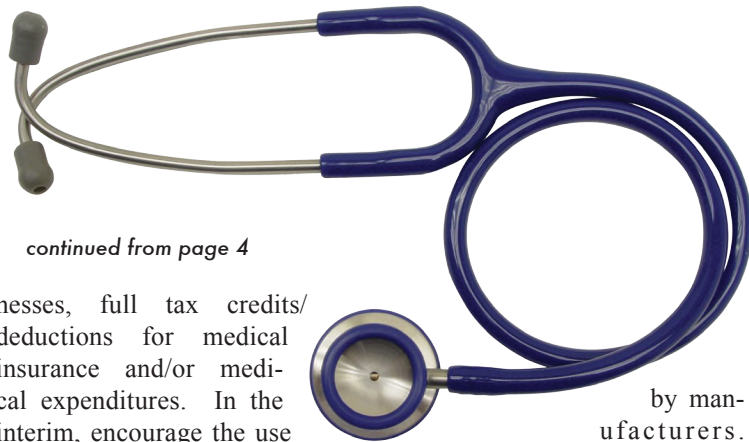
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Universal Health Care and Liberty



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nesses, full tax credits/deductions for medical insurance and/or medical expenditures. In the interim, encourage the use of HSAs by increasing the amount of tax-deductible contributions (currently \$3000) that a person can make each year.

2. Ending insurance mandates that states impose. As an interim measure, allow insurance sales across state lines so that consumers can choose the insurance plan that best fits their needs, rather than be limited to what state legislatures allow.

3. Making doctors and their insurers liable only for actual negligence and malpractice. We need to return to a system of strict liability. In the interim, caps on non-economic damages, such as those in California and Texas, lower insurance costs, but may prevent victims of actual malpractice from being appropriately compensated.

4. Ending the regulation of medical professionals and employing a system of voluntary certification instead. Studies show that certification increases the amount of quality care delivered, especially to the poor. Since practitioners are usually certified on the basis of competence, rather than on politically correct regulations, their number and quality increases, while prices decrease.

5. Ending FDA regulation of pharmaceuticals and employing a system of third-party certification instead. The FDA doesn't test any drugs, but simply looks over the data provided

by manufacturers.

Underwriters' Laboratory (UL), which certifies electrical appliances, actually tests the products that bear its "Seal of Approval." Such third-party testing is an excellent model for drug certification.

In the interim, passing bills such as Congressman Ron Paul's HR 3395 and HR 3394 removes the FDA's jurisdiction over all nutrient-disease relationship claims and prevents the Federal Trade Commission from taking action against any advertiser that communicates a health benefit unless it can establish that the claim is false and harmful.

Each of these measures by itself can decrease health care costs by at least 10 percent. Taken together, they can slash health care costs by 50 percent or more. This is true health care reform. Be sure to call your representatives and tell them to vote against health care rationing and for real health care reform. The life you save may be your own!

Mary J. Ruwart, Ph.D. is best known for her award-winning book, Healing Our World, available as a free download at www.ruwart.com. She is also the author of Short Answers to the Tough Questions, based on her popular Web column at www.theadvocates.org.

Run for Congress with the LP

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their names directly on the ballot. That's a substantial power, and we want to take full advantage of it.

In 2008, the LP in Michigan and Texas both ran large slates of candidates: 85 candidates in Michigan, and 173 in Texas. Results in both states were great, and those state parties are reporting high morale, growth, and strong prospects going into 2010.

Here are a few of the ways your candidacy can make a difference:

1. Give voters a choice. Many Republicans and Democrats run for Congress unopposed! How disgusting! Whether or not your incumbent runs unopposed, if you run for Congress as a Libertarian, you guarantee that voters will have a better option—and many voters will take advantage of that option.

2. Get free media coverage. There is no simpler way to get media attention than filing as a candidate. Some news outlets cover

Libertarians more than others, but you'd be surprised—if you answer their calls, they are often happy to give you some attention. Reporters get tired of hearing the same old Democrapublican nonsense, just like everyone else.

3. Get other free publicity. The League of Women Voters provides most areas of the United States with free voter guides. These guides generally give comments from all candidates, so it's an excellent opportunity to express Libertarian positions. You can also attend candidate forums. Many Libertarian candidates have expressed surprise when people walk up to them after a forum and say, "I really enjoyed hearing your point of view!"

4. Help our party organization. It's very valuable to our party when we have a lot of candidates. It increases our media coverage, it excites our members, it increases our vote totals, and it increases our chances of getting Libertarians elected.

5. Influence close races. In close elections, Libertarian candi-

dates often control enough votes to decide who the winner will be. In those situations, the Democrat and Republican are both pressured to "move Libertarian" in order to court Libertarian voters.

6. Satisfy your conscience. Running for office can make you feel less angry and hopeless about politics, because you know that you have stepped up to make a change. Ultimately, it's up to the voters whether they choose to vote for you—but it's up to you whether to offer them a Libertarian choice.

Becoming a candidate for Congress is especially easy, because you don't have to fill out campaign finance paperwork if you spend under \$5,000 on your campaign. You also don't technically have to live in the district you're running for, which can be important in states where several good candidates happen to live in the same district.

If you want to be a candidate for Congress, or if you just want more information, send an email to campaigns@lp.org, or call 1-800-ELECT-US. Win or lose, every vote for a Libertarian candidate makes a difference.

Obama's Path to Economic Ruin for Small Businesses

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routes. Does that sound like the end of a recession?

- One of my neighbors—a well-known celebrity, CEO and multi-millionaire—has put his multi-million dollar Vegas mansion up for "short sale" to stave off foreclosure.

- One of my best friends has closed or sold off eight of his 12 vitamin stores to try to "stop the bleeding" of business losses. He reports that the last four months have been the worst of his 25 years in business. He says, "business has literally dropped off a cliff." He also says and I quote, "Anyone that says we are in recovery is either a fool or a liar."

Small business is in freefall. Not only will there be no new jobs, we will continue losing jobs until Obama finds a way to save small business. Unemployment will only go up from here. Saving or creating government jobs won't save the American economy—as we now see. Obama's theories don't work in the real world. They only work in books—books written by Karl Marx. The Obama experiment is a massive failure.

But the reality is Obama has a much bigger problem on his hands. Small business doesn't just create all the jobs, it pays virtually all the tax-

es. That means there will also be no tax revenues to pay for Obama's massive spending programs, entitlements and stimulus. That means all of Obama's deficit forecasts are way off. Since Obama projects almost \$10 trillion in deficits over the next decade, my educated guess is we should count on a figure closer to \$15 to \$20 trillion in deficit. We are in a world of trouble under the leadership of a man who thinks government creates jobs. Good luck with that.

Having said all of that, just criticizing isn't good enough. Critics need to provide solutions.

In my next commentary, I'll show a simple two-step program (direct from the pages of my new book) to save small business and turn this entire economy around quickly. Obama, are you listening?

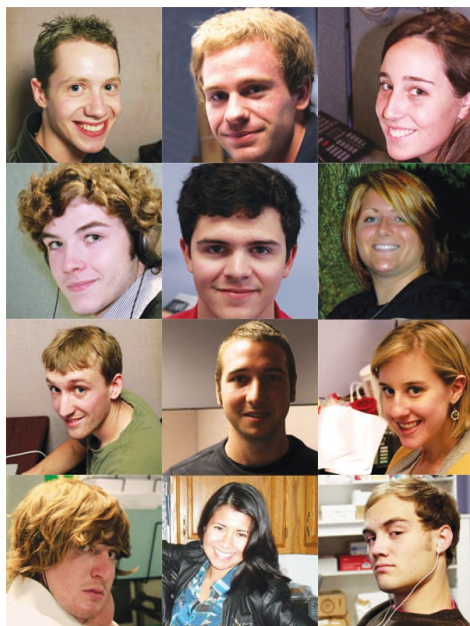
Wayne Allyn Root was the 2008 Libertarian Vice Presidential candidate. His new book is entitled, The Conscience of a Libertarian: Empowering the Citizen Revolution with God, Guns, Gambling & Tax Cuts. For more of Wayne's views, commentaries, or to watch his many national media appearances, visit ROOTforAmerica.com.

LP Interns Hard at Work for Liberty

by Ivy Wisner

The Libertarian Party was fortunate to benefit from the help of twelve interns this season under the supervision of New Media Specialist Mark Meranta. America's resurgence of general disillusionment with failed government programs, and enthusiasm for the tea party protests, made this an especially influential period for the LP. The interns took advantage of this by participating in activism, new projects, and administrative work.

At the "Save School Choice" Rally, interns protested the Omnibus Appropriations Act. At the National Equality March, interns stood up for LGBT rights. In addition, the LP interns joined staff members in handing out literature and holding up signs criticizing the gov-



ernment's increasing scope at the highly successful 9/12 March on Washington.

When the interns were not participating in activism, they were busy working on new projects for the staff. The LP recently launched a Flickr page with the

help of James Harrison, which features photos from rallies. Other projects include newly uploaded YouTube videos, a new media packet for candidates, and research projects for staff members.

The interns helped with the administrative work around the LP office, stuffing envelopes and providing assistance with social media Web sites such as Facebook and Twitter. One of the major projects at the office was a nationwide membership drive, in which interns called contributors with lapsed memberships to offer membership renewals.

There are currently more opportunities than ever to become involved with the LP, either at a local or state level. To learn more about the internship program or find other ways to participate in America's third largest political party, visit www.LP.org.



Lynchburg Libertarians Reach Out to Voters

by Dana Hale

The Lynchburg Libertarians (LL), which celebrated their 10th anniversary in late August, have been very active during the past three months.

The group sponsored a Constitution Day Tea Party in City Stadium in Lynchburg on the evening of September 17. The event, organized by LL Chair Dana Hale, drew an estimated 500 people, and received excellent media coverage in Lynchburg and Roanoke. Libertarian Party speakers included Jeff Bowles (LP Virginia chairman) and Jim Lark (LNC member and former national LP chairman). Mr. Bowles led the crowd in a spirited cheer of "Sic Semper Tyrannis!" ("Thus always to tyrants," the motto of Virginia).

LL sponsored information booths at both the Centerfest in Bedford on September 26 and the Railroad Festival in Appomattox on October 10. These outreach activities marked the first time that Libertarian Party organiza-

tions appeared at these annual events.

For the fifth consecutive year, LL sponsored an information booth at the annual Sedalia Chili Cook-off (in Bedford County).

As in previous years, the outreach effort generated a large number of new prospects, and allowed LL team members to have a good time while doing outreach at a major event in the area. Team members included Ms. Hale and her husband Gideon, Ray Hawkins, Patrick Hubble, and Dave Overstreet, with help from Liz and Jeff Bowles, Rebekah and Byrd Hoskins, and Jim Lark (the chili chef). The team's chili won second place in the competition, the second time in three years the LL team has won an award.

As a result of this outreach, the LL email list has doubled and attendance at monthly meetings has increased by three to four times during the past three months. In addition, LL is supporting a newly formed Libertarian group at Liberty University.

Planning Continues for the 2010 National Convention in St. Louis

by Wes Benedict

It's not too early to put the 2010 National Libertarian Party Convention on your calendar. The 2010 convention will be held Memorial Day weekend from Thursday, May 27 through Monday, May 31 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Libertarian Party has intentionally scheduled many of the recent conventions on holiday weekends because convention hotels have offered lower rates on those weekends.

More details will be announced soon, including the different packages and prices, and instructions on how to sign up and make hotel reservations.

While some people prepare for Libertarian conventions and come ready to support specific agendas and candidates for LP leadership, others attend primarily for the camaraderie and the opportunity to learn new activist skills.

Although you do not have to be an official delegate to attend, becoming

a delegate allows you to vote and set the direction of the party. Contact your state affiliate party if you are interest in serving as a delegate.

A tentative list of speakers includes: David Nolan, one of the Party's 1971 co-founders; Neal Boortz, syndicated radio talk show host and famous LP member; Gary Nolan, syndicated radio talk show host and candidate for the 2004 LP presidential nomination; Mary Ruwart, noted author and candidate for the 2008 LP presidential nomina-

tion; Dr. James W. Lark, III, former national chair, slated to address the Torch Club (\$1,000 donors); Jeff Davis, radio personality who produces "Just a Thought" commentaries.

LNC Secretary Bob Sullentrup reports, "I'll be welcoming delegates to St. Louis before the opening gavel drops. The Gateway City is my home town, and I'll point out what to do and where to go to get the most out of your visit to the fair city."



Don't Waste Your Vote...

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According to Dr. Eland, to find a Republican president who ranks higher in his PP&L rankings than Jimmy Carter, one must go all the way back to Warren Harding. And, to write that pains me; the Marion Harding Presidents (what else would their nickname be?) were rivals with my Findlay Trojans in the Buckeye Conference when I was in high school.

What I took away from Dr. Eland's enlightening book was that the frequently heard advice to libertarians and supporters of small government to not "waste their vote," and to hold their nose and vote Republican, makes about as much sense as the headline at the beginning of this column. The people who have done that over the last several decades need to look around and observe what that admonition has wrought.

16 Libertarians Win in 2009 Elections



by Arthur DiBianca

Over 50 Libertarians ran for public office in the November 3 elections. Sixteen of them were elected.

Karen Richardson was elected to the city council of John's Creek, Georgia.

Roger Fritz was elected mayor of Roland, Iowa.

Nick Taiber received enough votes to advance to a December runoff for city council in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Bill Lynn was elected as an alderman in Davenport, Iowa.

Andy LeCureaux was elected to the city council of Hazel Park, Michigan.

Dan Halloran was elected to the New York City Council, representing District 19 in Queens. He was jointly nominated by the Republican, Conservative, Independence and Libertarian parties.

In Ohio, John McAlister was elected to the city council of Gahanna, and Justin Williamson was elected to the Parral Village Council.

In Pennsylvania, ten Libertarians were elected. Michael J. Robertson was elected Licking Township Supervisor; Berlie R. Etzel was elected Ashland Township Constable; Timothy A. Russell was elected Emlenton Borough Mayor; Larry Allen Boyle was elected Polk Borough Mayor; James Fryman was elected Victory Township Auditor; Paula L. Meddings and Chad M. Roberts were both elected to the Houston Borough Council; Susan Haythornthwaite was elected Auditor of Abbott Township; Cathy A. Beeman was elected Auditor of Waterford Township; and Randall R. Schwabenbauer was elected Oil City Area School Director.

We appreciate all the Libertarians who ran for office, and congratulate those who won.

Corrections: In the September 2009 issue of *LP News*, we incorrectly stated that Kent McMillen is LP Illinois State Chair. McMillen is actually the Public Relations Chair.

Additionally, in the article "The Final Stake in the Heart of the Economy" (page 10), we misspelled author Glenn Nielsen's name.

NC Court Upholds 'Shameful' Ballot Access Restrictions

by North Carolina LP

The North Carolina Appeals Court decision upholding the state's restrictive ballot access laws is "a shameful day for our state," said Dr. Mike Munger, 2008 Libertarian Party candidate for governor.

Munger, chair of the Duke University political science department, agreed that judges properly show substantial deference to the legislature in these sorts of 'time, place, and manner' of elections. "But, at some point, our justice system is going to have to take up the cause of the citizens because right now the General Assembly is letting us down," he said. "The North Carolina Constitution guarantees a citizen's right to vote for the party or candidate of their choice. Right now, that right is being denied. The courts are bending over backwards to give the legislature a chance to make this right. So, for now, the ball is once more in the court of the General Assembly."

"The problem is that neither the Democrat nor Republican power-brokers want to let anyone else in on their duopoly," said Barbara Howe, chair of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina.

Howe said that in the next election cycle,

North Carolina will probably have the largest signature requirement of any state—an estimated 90,000 signatures just to be able to put a name on the ballot.

"Our question to the General Assembly is: Are you going to continue to shame North Carolina with some of the most restrictive laws in the nation?" said Howe. "Or, are you going to bring laws in North Carolina into balance with those of the rest of the states? States like South Carolina, which require only 10,000 signatures to get on the ballot. Or, Tennessee, which requires only 25 signatures."

Since this was a 2-1 decision, the full court will automatically hear the case if one of the parties requests it. Howe said the Libertarians will almost certainly make such a request.

Howe said Libertarians were heartened by Calabria's dissenting opinion, in which she said, "North Carolina's two percent statewide requirements for both ballot access and ballot retention place too onerous a burden on the fundamental rights of members of third parties under the State Constitution."

It is ultimately the role of the legislature, rather than the court, to determine a precise method of ballot access and retention,

she said. "However, ballot access statutes must, at the very least, allow both political parties and unaffiliated candidates equal access to the ballot," she said.

The law is especially unfair because it forces a new or previously unqualified party to either qualify statewide, or not at all, Calabria said.

The majority decision included a comment that Texas' ballot access law had been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, and that Texas law also requires a party to qualify statewide, or not at all. This is an error, according to Ballot Access News—a publication that follows nationwide ballot access issues.

"Texas has always had procedures for a party that is not qualified statewide to get on the ballot in a single county," reported Richard Winger, a nationally-recognized ballot access expert, and the editor of Ballot Access News.

Winger testified on behalf of the Libertarian Party at the trial.

"This decision, like the original decision by the Superior Court, completely fails to mention any of the other issues we raised, including the issue of whether the state should let voters register with parties that aren't ballot-qualified," said Howe.

Libertarians Attend the National Equality March in D.C.

by Ivy Wisner & Ashley O'Donnell

On October 11, 2009, Libertarian Party interns joined over 150,000 protesters at the National Equality March in Washington, D.C. The march was organized to show support for the LGBT rights and came in response to the Obama administration's negligent attitude towards gay rights.

After nine months of serving as president, Obama failed to end the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy on banning open homosexuals in the military, prolonging the ban until 2010 or later. The administration also ignored the subject of gay marriage as other issues took the forefront. This leaves liberty-minded individuals wondering how long will gays be treated as second-class citizens. So far, the Libertarian Party seems to be the only political party to offer uncompromising solutions to these issues.

Instead of urging the government to grant same-sex couples the same benefits as heterosexual married couples, the Libertarian Party advocates for zero government intervention in personal relationships with the goal of privatizing marriage. Libertarians maintain that as long as the government has the power to distribute marriage licenses, it has the power to define marriage itself. Therefore, the only way to preserve the greatest amount of freedom for members of the LGBT community is to regard marriage and other personal relationships as private social contracts, eliminating the special benefits that are assigned to the government sanctioned institution. The government should not treat married people differently from unmarried people.



Libertarian interns attend D.C. Equality March.

The official Libertarian Party platform states: "Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships. Government does not have the authority to define, license or restrict personal relationships."

The issue of privatization is not often discussed in gay marriage debates. People frequently look to the government to enact legislation to secure so-called "endangered" civil liberties, but the solution which provides the most freedom is one that is separate from the government. Therefore, it is important to attend protests such as this, spread the Libertarian philosophy, and recruit new Libertarians.

AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

Alabama

Libertarians Fight Stadium

The LPA has been fighting for nearly fifteen years against a domed stadium, and the ousting of the mayor on bribery and conspiracy charges leaves funding for the dome in doubt once again. Originally, the multi-purpose facility was conceived as a \$600 million project to be funded by a combination of city, county and state tax hikes. The county is now bankrupt, state revenue is falling, and interim Mayor Carol Smitherman says without help, the city cannot go at it alone. This monster isn't dead yet, but it will give the LPA and like-minded civic organizations a little time—maybe a year or two—to regroup for the next battle.

Alaska

Libertarians on the Rise

The Alaska LP is conducting a voter registration drive to maintain our ballot status. We currently have 8,914 registered Libertarians (up from 6,020 in April). The LP has 1.82 percent of all the registered voters in the state. We have 4.53 percent of the registered 18-19 year-olds, which bodes well for the future of Libertarianism on the Last Frontier!

California

LPCA Prepares for 2010

In November, members of the LPC staffed tables at the Junior State of America Fall State 2009 Conferences in Santa Clara, Los Angeles, and Newport Beach to promote Libertarianism and the Party.

JSA chapters from high schools all across California send thousands of students to attend these regional conferences in both the fall and spring. These students listen to speeches, hold debates, and learn more about current issues of the day.

In addition, the Placer County Libertar-

ians in conjunction with their local Registrar of Voters, conducted outreach directly to high schools in their area and registered a number of students as Libertarians since the beginning of the school year.

Mark your calendar now to be among the decision-makers at our Party's annual business meetings! If you've never been a California LP member, join the Libertarian Party of California and register to vote Libertarian by Friday, November 12th to qualify to be a delegate!

And while you're making those plans, get the most out of your delegate status: join the Libertarian Party and get ready to register for their bi-annual convention in Saint Louis over Memorial Day Weekend, too.

If you're a candidate for office, or a dedicated campaign volunteer, make plans to attend our donors' reception so you can meet the folks who've proven to be the Libertarian Party of California's generous donors. It could be your best opportunity to secure support for your favorite candidate's campaign.

2010 California LP Convention registration will open soon, so visit the state Party's website to stay informed.

Want to be among the first to be notified when registration opens? Call Beau at 818-782-8400 or e-mail him at office@ca.lp.org to be on our 2010 Convention call-back list.

Florida

Luncheon Benefits Candidates

The Libertarian Party of Orange County, Florida hosted a Luncheon on Sunday, October 25. Libertarians throughout the state attended to enjoy a delicious buffet lunch, socialize and exchange ideas about Party building. LNC Vice Chair, Michael Jingoian was the featured speaker. The proceeds from the luncheon were donated to the Libertarian Party of Florida to benefit our 2010 candidates.

There were several prospective 2010 candidates in attendance including: John Wayne Smith, Libertarian candidate for Governor of Florida; his running mate, Florida State Chair, J. J. McCurry; and, Alex Snitker, candidate for U. S. Senate.

The Libertaian Party of Florida has never in their history fielded any statewide candidates appearing on the ballot with the name Libertarian; however, next year, we will have three. A special thanks is due to our National Vice Chair Michael Jingoian for helping to make this event a success.

Idaho

Brunch With Philosophy

Idaho Libertarians celebrated a year of hosting the monthly "Philosophical Libertarian Brunch," which has been a successful, recurring outreach/educational activity. The roots of libertarian philosophy, why we're libertarians and other related subjects have been presented to Treasure Valley activists and lib-curious visitors in a relaxed atmosphere, in a private room, at a local restaurant. The focus on philosophy has allowed the activists to recharge mentally while temporarily setting aside the ongoing challenges faced daily when addressing issues in the target-rich environment of current-events politics. ExComm member Dwight Zitek conceived this brunch concept and has been the lead facilitator.

Illinois

Annual Convention Yields Crop of 2010 Candidates

The Libertarian Party of Illinois held a spirited and productive annual convention the weekend of October 23-25 in Collinsville. Inspirational speeches by Libertarian stalwarts Sharon Harris and Ken Krawchuck, a fun round of Libertarian Jeopardy and the nomination of office seekers for the 2010 election were just a part of this yearly meeting of freedom lovers.

The following individuals were nominated for office for the fall 2010 elections: Michael Labno, U.S. Senate; Lex Green, Governor; Ed Rutledge, Lt. Governor; Josh Hanson, Secretary of State; Julie Fox, Comptroller.

We are currently seeking candidates for the Treasurer and Attorney General positions to complete our slate. With the previous two Illinois gubernatorial administrations permeated with corruption scandals, the LP Illinois has an unprecedented oppor-

tunity to make huge gains in these races. To get our candidates on the ballot, we face a 50,000-signature, 90-day petition drive in 2010. Pledges for either signatures, or dollars to collect signatures, are greatly appreciated. Visit our Web site, LPillinois.org for more information.

Also, as a result of either election at the convention or retention, the following will serve as the LP Illinois Executive Board until our annual state convention in 2010: Lupe Diaz, State Chair; Charles Sila, Treasurer; Daniel Kamerling, Secretary; Damon Dillon, Membership Director; Kent McMillen, Public Relations Director; Michael Fogelsanger, Activism Director; Crystal Jurczynski, Campaigns Director; David Davies, Legislative Director; Steven Kruzek, Technology Director; Carol Kruzek, News Director.

We wish to give a special mention to Val Vetter, who filled in as State Chair over the past few months until the convention (after previously serving as State Chair for nearly four years), and Deborah Aaron, who did an amazing job as Treasurer for over three years in the position. We will truly miss their leadership and dedication, but look forward to their future contributions to LP Illinois.

With the energy and talent of both our candidates and newly reconstituted Executive Board, LP Illinois is poised for a successful result in the 2010 elections and for future growth. We urge our members to display their talents by getting involved in this most exciting of times.

Indiana

Candidate Training Event

More than 30 Libertarian Party members met in downtown Indianapolis in mid-October to learn the basics of running a successful campaign. Run! A candidate training seminar of the Libertarian Party of Indiana will be a valuable resource to the state party for years to come. Topics included: beginning a successful campaign, maintaining momentum after the start, finishing the race strong, fundraising and election law. Presenters were Hoosier Libertarians who have been active in the party for many years and have firsthand experience in running successful third-party campaigns.

The entire seminar was videotaped, and has been posted on YouTube at [http://www.](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

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AFFILIATE News And Events

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youtube.com/lpofin. A DVD and manual are being created, and the seminar will be shown or represented in County Organizations around the State.

Also, Libertarians in Lake County gathered recently for their annual convention to elect new officers. Jeff Duensing was elected as Chairman of the County Party. Duensing has served as Vice Chairman for the County Organization for the last term, as well as running for Congress in District 1 and serving as Central Committee Representative. His goals are to recruit candidates for every office in the County and increase the party's membership.

Jeanine Kirpec was elected as Vice Chair. Janice Glueckert was elected the new Treasurer, and the Secretary remains Adelbert Bell.

Lake County is the second-most populated county in Indiana. It is the Indiana county that borders Chicago.

Maryland

MDLP Nominates Governor and Lt. Governor Candidates

On November 21, 2009 the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland selected Susan Gaztañaga as their candidate for Governor and Doug McNeil as their candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

In a speech on November 21, Susan Gaztañaga stated, "A Gaztañaga administration will be a transparent administration in which citizens will know exactly where their tax dollars are going. The double burden of excessive taxation and intrusive regulation is keeping the neediest citizens of Maryland from starting businesses, creating jobs, and building a thriving economy." She continued by saying, "If the State government sticks to its basic responsibility of providing a safe, secure environment in which people can conduct their business, maintaining our infrastructure of roads, bridges and tunnels, and providing an emergency response system, I am confident that Marylanders will be able to feed, clothe, house, educate and care for themselves and their loved ones."

The MDLP also has five other candidates running for office in the 2010 elections. Dr. Richard Davis is running in the 1st Congressional District and Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Susan's husband, is running for Congress in the 2nd District. For the House of Delegates Justin Kinsey is running in District 5B and Brandon Brooks has stepped up for District 11. Darlene Nichols is a candidate for Prince Georges County Council.

New Hampshire

NHLP Supports Spending Cap

At their annual convention last week, the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire endorsed the proposed spending cap for Manchester on the November ballot. Several party members helped with collecting signatures for the measure and were deeply disappointed at the delay created by some on the city council forcing the voters of Manchester to wait an extra year before having their say on whether this measure should be adopted.

The text of the resolution is as follows: "Whereas, lower taxes are the result of lower spending by government, and whereas government should live within its means just as the citizenry does, the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire endorses the spending cap measure on the ballot in Manchester this November 2009 and encourages the citizens of Manchester to vote in its favor to gain some greater control over their city's spending."

New Jersey

NJLP Starts Transparency Project

While government agencies routinely issue press releases announcing their successful endeavors, those agencies' failures and abuses also need to be identified and made known. Otherwise, the public will assign an undeservedly high value to those agencies.

In order to uncover that which government officials would prefer remained buried, the New Jersey Libertarian Party has established an Open Government Ad-

vocacy Project. The Project has two main thrusts. First, it tracks civil lawsuits where one of the parties is a government agency, or official (many are police abuse matters) and publicizes the amount the government, or its insurer, ultimately pays to settle the matter. Those results are distributed to the media and collected on a blog at <http://njcivilsettlements.blogspot.com>.

Second, it endeavors—in a variety of ways—to make government agencies more transparent. One of the project's tactics is to sue agencies in order to force them to do less decision making in private, and to give faster public access to information regarding those decisions that are legitimately conducted behind closed doors. This aspect of the project's work is chronicled on a blog at <http://njopengovt.blogspot.com>.

Ohio

Ohio Libertarians Win in Off-Year Election

At the recent elections, the Libertarian Party of Ohio fielded seven candidates for local office; four of those offices being partisan. This was the first time in our history that we have fielded candidates for partisan office in an odd-year (local) election cycle. Two candidates won. John McAlister was re-elected to Gahanna City Council, and Josh Williamson won election to the Parral Village Council. The other candidates got from 5 percent to 34 percent of the vote.

We now gear up for 2010. The LPO expects to have as many as 25 to 40 candidates running for office next year, including Governor. We will focus on the Governor race (that helps us ballot qualify as a party) and selected Ohio Assembly and U.S. Congress races. Our 2010 candidate list is being updated on our Web site, <http://www.lpo.org>.

Recently, the Libertarian Party of Ohio was invited to sit at the table with election officials and review voter forms and ballots. This is important because we pointed out some areas where minor parties were ignored on Ohio ballot language. State Chair Kevin Knedler is involved in this committee and also sits on the Voting Rights Institute, which is part of the Ohio Secretary of State office.

Ballot access continues to be a main focus of the Libertarian Party of Ohio. As you read this, there would have already been a vote in the Ohio Assembly for HB

260, which contains new standards for ballot access of minor parties in Ohio. We expect the bill to pass in the Democratic-controlled Ohio House because on November 10, it passed the committee hearings. The LPO is taking a low-profile approach to this huge bill because the two major parties continue to struggle with many other portions of the bill, including provisional voting and voter registration processes.

That said, the next hurdle will be the GOP-controlled Ohio Senate. This is where the LPO will need to step up, meet Ohio Senators, and get the media and liberty-minded citizens involved. We hope the Ohio Senate can resolve all the issues by early January in time for preparation for the primary filing deadlines in February 2010. Meanwhile, the Libertarian Party of Ohio is on the ballot as a party because of a Directive from the Ohio Secretary of State.

Please go to <http://www.LPO.org> and sign up for the social networks, an Ohio LPO Region Meetup, or the LPO statewide announcements.

Texas

LPTX Completes Another State Tour

The Libertarian Party of Texas repeated its successful 2007 state tour with their 2009 tour. The goal is to reach out to Libertarians across the state, recruit candidates, support local activists, and engage with the media. The tour has been a great success. "More people are coming out to see us. We are getting more media attention, and donations exceed our past tour," says State Chair Pat Dixon.

The party has until Jan. 4, 2010 to recruit candidates for the 2010 election. In 2008, the party placed 173 candidates on the ballot: an all-time record. The recruiting goals for 2010 are to exceed the 173 candidates, fill every statewide race and fill every race for the state legislature.

Dixon says past efforts at candidate recruiting have resulted in significant influence in state government policy. "In the last state legislative session we saved taxpayers over a billion dollars. For every dollar invested in the Libertarian Party of Texas last year, we saved over \$7,410. You can't beat that in Las Vegas, or on Wall Street. By placing candidates on the ballot we were able to kill bad bills that would have added to our tax burden. We hope our candidate recruiting meets or exceeds our expectations."

The Libertarian National Committee Welcomes Our Newest Members

New Members From
8/20/09 to 11/24/09

Lifetime

Louis Fernandez
William Higgins
Carlos Lattin

Patron

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Terry Holcombe	Billy Kiser	Nicholas Mason	George Nowling	Jon Reyna	Brandon Smith	Mark Vander Weyden
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Duane Horton	Rob Kniola	Al R. Maulini	William N. Ogden	Adam Ringgenberg	Bob Snider	Danielle Veggian
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Current members upgrading to higher levels are not listed. For example, if you were previously a Basic Member and you upgraded to Lifetime, your name is not listed here. We greatly appreciate your upgrade, but space and other considerations make it prohibitive for us to list upgrading members at this time.

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WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR STATE?

Here are some of the Libertarian Party events happening around the country. A more complete list can be found online at LP.org/event. You can get more information by visiting the website of your state affiliate. (See a list at LP.org/states.) If there is an event you would like to see listed here or on the website, please send details to:

EVENTS@LP.ORG
OR CALL THE LP HEADQUARTERS AT
(202) 333-0008.



Event	Date	Location
LPNH "Money Bomb"	12/15/09	World Wide Web
LP Pinellas Club Coffee	1/16/10	St. Petersburg, FL
LPC State Convention	2/12/10	Long Beach, CA
LPK State Convention	2/26/10	Lexington, KY
LPMO State Convention	3/6/10	Jefferson City, MO
LPD State Convention	3/6/10	Dover, DE
LPNH 2010 Forum	3/18/10	Nashua, NH
LPP State Convention	3/26/10	Harrisburg, PA
LPO State Convention	4/9/10	Columbus, OH
LPIN State Convention	4/23/10	Indianapolis, IN
LPF State Convention	4/24/10	Panama City, FL
LPMI State Convention	5/22/10	Okemos, MI
LPTX State Convention	6/11/10	Austin, TX

Each issue, we'll ask you a question, and the answer will be provided in the next issue of *LP News*. Discussion on the question is welcome in "Letters to the Editor," space permitting.

Finish the following phrase: *"The only proper role of government in the economic realm is to..."* (hint: Check out <http://www.lp.org/platform>)

LAST ISSUE'S LP QUESTION:

Who said: "Left-wing politicians take away your liberty in the name of children and of fighting poverty, while right-wing politicians do it in the name of family values and fighting drugs. Either way, government gets bigger and you become less free."

ANSWER:

Harry Browne. Browne was the Libertarian Party's presidential nominee in 1996 & 2000, and was viewed as one of the "great communicators" of the Libertarian movement. Browne passed away in March of 2006.

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Libertarians from Lynchburg, VA, host an outreach event at the Appomattox Railroad Festival.

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